Closure of Oil Co-ordination Committee

3209. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it has been decided to close down the Oil Co-ordination Committee as consequence of APM dismantling;

(b) if so, the number of officers and staff likely to become surplus and of those proposed to be absorbed;

(c) whether there will be corresponding reduction in the strength in oil companies if they are reverted back to their parent cadre public sector oil companies; and

(d) if not, the reasons for increasing the number and expenditure of public sector oil companies?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir. The Oil Co-ordination Committee (OCC) stands dissolved from 1st April, 2002.

(b) to (d) The employees of the OCC were on deputation from different organisations including public sector oil companies. Since the employees of the oil companies in the OCC were against the sanctioned strength of these companies, their repatriation is not likely to cause any problem to the companies.

CNG fire cases

3210. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of incidents of the vehicles run by CNG catching fire have increased over the months;

(b) if so, the details of mishaps in CNG run vehicles during the last one year;

(c) whether Government have carried out any study or evalution on the causes for mishaps in CNG vehicles?

(d) if so, the details thereof and the safety measures taken for CNG vehicles?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of mishaps in Delhi are as follows:

05.08.2001: Near Punjabi Bagh Flyover
20.09.2001: Minor fire in RTV at Sanjay Gandhi Transport Nagar
01.10.2001: Fire in bus at Karkardooma Court
10.10.2001: Fire in bus at Nehru Place
14.10.2001: Fire in CNG auto at Jahangeerpuri
11.11.2001: Fire in bus near Dhaula Kuan
19.12.2001: Fire in bus at G.T.K. DTC Depot
27.12.2001: Fire in MOP at Delhi Mathura Highway
07.01.2002: Fire in auto-rickshaw at Okhla Morh
21.02.2002: Fire in Tata Bus at Nanglamachi Station
22.03.2002: Fire in TELCO bus near Kakrola Morh, Papankala

(c) and (d) Informal inquiries have been carried out by Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL). Statutory inquiry is to be done by the State Government. The inquiries by IGL reveal fault in the rupture disk of vehicles and use of spurious cylinders to be one of the causes of fire incidents.

Decline in foreign tourist and foreign exchange earnings

3211. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourist traffic in India from all over the globe has decreased during the last six months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that foreign exchange earnings has also come down during this period;

(c) if so, the details of tourist arrivals to India and the foreign